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ZYDUS QUOTES ₹1,900 FOR VAX, GOVT PUSH TO LOWER RATE

The Centre is in negotiations with Ahmedabad-based Zydus, which has put a price tag of `1,900 for its three-shot ZyCov-D

THE REASON BEHIND DIFFERENTIAL PRICING

ZyCoV-D is priced differently than Covaxin and Covishield as it needs a ₹30,000 needle-free jet injector. The injector is not single-use and can administer around 20,000 doses. "Since this is a three-dose vaccine and comes with a needleless delivery system, it would have a differential pricing than the existing jabs," said Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan

FIRST JAB FOR KIDS IN 12-18 GROUP

- ZyCoV-D received Emergency Use Authorisation from the drug regulator on August 20, making it the first vaccine eligible to be administered in the age-group of 12 to 18, besides adults
- It is the world's first DNA-based needle-free vaccine, indigenously developed by the Ahmedabad-based Zydus Cadila pharma

Three

ROUNDS OF TALKS HAVE BEEN HELD TO NEGOTIATE THE PRICING

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

4 farmers among 8 killed in UP as protest turns violent

Union minister Ajay Mishra refutes claims of his son being in one of the vehicles involved

One of the cars that was set afire by protesters in Kheri on Sunday

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

AT least eight persons, including four farmers, died and 15 others were injured on Sunday after an anti-farm law protest turned violent in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district. "Four occupants of the vehicles that allegedly ran over the farmers were also killed," Additional Superintendent of Police, Lakhimpur Kheri, Arun Kumar Singh said.

Violence broke out after two vehicles in the convoy of the son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra allegedly ran over a group of anti-farm law protesters on the Tikunia-Banbirpur road. Angry farmers reportedly stopped the convoy and set three vehicles on fire. Farmers alleged Mishra's son was in one of the vehicles, a charge he denied. Sources said the farmers had assembled at Tikunia to oppose UP Deputy CM Keshav Maurya's visit to Banvari, where he was to attend a programme organised by Mishra.

"The farmers had planned to gherao a helipad to stop the Maurya from getting off. Once that programme ended and most people were on their way back, three cars came and mowed down the farmers. One farmer died on the spot and another in the hospital," said Dr Darshan Pal, a farmers' leader. Four of the deceased were identified as Harjeet Singh, Satwinder Singh, Satnam Singh and Agyat Lavra.

Calling the incident a conspiracy, Mishra said his son was not even present at the spot when the incident took place. He blamed anti-social elements for pelting stones on a vehicle, leading to its overturning and crushing of two farmers underneath. Mishra said his driver and three BJP workers died in the incident. Meanwhile, ADG, L&O, Prashant Kumar reached the spot and deployed additional forces to prevent the incident from snowballing.

Angered by Mishra's comment

The protest on Tikunia-Banbirpur road was organised to show black flags to Mishra and Mourya over the former's recent comment against the anti-farm law protests. Mishra had recently underplayed the protests, saying it was a protest of "10-15 people and it would take just two minutes to make them fall in line".

Priyanka, Akhilesh to visit the site

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is slated to visit Lakhimpur Kheri on Monday. "As of now, Priyanka ji has not left (for Lakhimpur Kheri). There are full chances of house arrest," a party spokesperson said. Others like SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and RLD's Jayant Chaudhary are also scheduled to go there. Farmers will hold peaceful protests

CM wants tit-for-tat by volunteer force

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

WEEKS after a video of a bureaucrat directing policemen to break the heads of agitating farmers went viral, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday landed in the soup for alleged asking his party workers to raise volunteer groups in each district to give a tit-for-tat to protesting farmers.

In a video clip that went viral on social media, Khattar while addressing a meeting of BJP's Kisan Morcha at his residence, is seen urging his party workers to form groups of 500-1,000 volunteers of farmers in each district in north and west Haryana to counter farmer outfits that have sprung up there. He asked the workers to follow the principle of *Sathe Sathyam Samacharet*, loosely translated as tit-for-tat. Khattar urged them to pick up sticks, which was interpreted as a call for armed combat. He went on to say they should not be afraid of going to jail for a short period, as they would eventually come out as heros and blossom into bigger leaders.

Manohar Lal Khattar

Varinder Chauhan, spokesperson of Haryana BJP, said, "only a portion of the video clip was being circulated to create a wrong impression. It has been misinterpreted. The state government has always shown restraint despite instigation by protesting farmers. Khattar has advised the party cadre to be patient."

"This call to spread anarchy at an open programme after taking oath of the Constitution is treason. Seems you also have the nod of Modi-Naddaji in this. If the CM talks about spreading violence... then the rule of law and the Constitution cannot prevail," tweeted Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala. As for the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, it said Khattar's call was unacceptable and objectionable. It demanded his dismissal. P9

Thumping victory for Didi in bypoll

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

CHIEF Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday registered a thumping victory in the Bhowanipore by-election, trouncing BJP's Priyanka Tibrewal by a record margin of 58,835 votes.

"The verdict in Bhowanipore was a reply to the conspiracy hatched against me in Nandigram. The Nandigram election result is pending in court. I secured lead from all wards of the civic body in Bhowanipore," said Mamata standing on the courtyard of her residence in Kalighat along with her family members.

Mamata crushed the opposition as she got 71.9% of the total votes polled as against her closest rival's (BJP) 22.17%. She had to win the bypoll to stay as chief minister.

Her reference to winning from all municipal wards is significant as the BJP secured a lead in two pockets in the constituency in the recent Assembly polls. Non-Bengali voters form around 40% of the total electorate in Bhowanipore, which the BJP hoped would lean towards it. Mamata apparently has made deep inroads into the BJP's vote bank.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee after winning the Bhowanipore bypoll

The Trinamool Congress also won two other Assembly constituencies, Samsherganj and Jangipur, where elections were held after its candidates died of Covid. In the minority dominated Samsherganj, BJP candidate Milan Ghosh lost her deposit. As for the Left Front, its candidates lost their deposits in all three Assembly seats.

Welcoming Mamata's victory, BJP's state president Sukanta Majumdar said, "Around 57% of the voters turned up at the polling booths in Bhowanipore. It shows a large number of voters either did not exercise their franchise or they were not allowed to. We welcome those who supported our candidate and we will contest in the by-elections in the four Assembly constituencies that will be held on October 30."

In Odisha, BJD's Rudra Pratap Maharathy won the Pipili bypoll, defeating his nearest rival Ashrit Pattnaik of the BJP by over 20,000 votes. P9

Indian scientists crack dengue vax challenge

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

SCIENTISTS from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS)-Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Bengaluru, in collaboration with several Indian institutes, have developed a dengue DNA vaccine candidate, accomplishing something that had remained a challenge over the years.

The team of scientists achieved the feat by selecting a part of an important viral protein from four different variations of the dengue virus to develop the vaccine candidate as a 'consensus vaccine' that could be effective against different dengue viral variants.

The virus that causes dengue has four types with four different viral antigens – essentially proteins causing infection, against which antibodies are created. The researchers selected a part called Envelope protein Domain-III from all the four serotypes of the virus. The ED-III is considered as the most important viral protein. In addition, the researchers also selected NS1 protein from the DENV2 viral variation, which is known to cause severe dengue with internal bleeding and drop in blood pressure.

"In the traditional vaccines, the whole envelope protein is used, which can lead to Antibody Dependent Enhancement – ADE (where the viral antigen binds to less-effective antibodies making the virus more effective)," said Dr Arun Sankaradoss, project lead and scientist at the TIFR-Bengaluru. P7

PANDORA PAPERS

Now, loads of black money info revealed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LOADS of documents revealing the financial secrets of 35 current and former world leaders, including Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's inner circle, were released on Sunday by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

Called Pandora Papers, they seek to unmask the covert owners of offshore firms and incognito bank accounts.

People named in the report include former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, pop music diva Shakira, supermodel Claudia Schiffer, among others. Tendulkar's attorney told the consortium that his investment was legitimate and declared to tax authorities.

The documents show how Jordan's monarch, King Abdullah II, funnelling $100 million to secretly purchase 14 luxury homes in the US and the UK and setting up at least 36 shell companies.

The documents also show that members of Imran's inner circle, their families and major financial backers secretly own companies and trusts holding millions of dollars of stashed away wealth. Among those named in the expose are Pakistan finance minister Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin and his family; top PTI donor Arif Naqvi; and minister Chaudhry Moonis Elahi.

It also reveals the sale of a luxury London apartment by the son of an Indian movie director to the wife of a three-star Pakistan general. P11

Selfie-taking man survives 140-foot fall

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

A youngster, who was considered dead after he fell from a 140-foot cliff while taking a selfie at the Gokak waterfalls in Belagavi district on Saturday evening, was miraculously found alive early on Sunday morning. A team of youth, headed by well-known wildlife activist and rescuer Ayub Khan, succeeded in rescuing the victim, who escaped with minor injuries.

The rescued youth, Pradeep, a resident of Kalaburagi and working at a bank at Belagavi, had gone to the falls along with his friends on Saturday. He walked to the edge of a cliff to take a selfie, but lost balance and fell. Soon after getting the information, the police and Khan's team rushed to the spot and started the search operation. But as they could not find Pradeep till Saturday evening, they called off the search presuming him dead and decided to resume the search on Sunday.

Khan told *TNIE* that around 3 am on Sunday, he received a call that Pradeep had been found alive. Pradeep himself had called his friend on his mobile phone and asked him to get help immediately as he was stuck between the rocks. Khan and his team decided to start the search at 3.30 am, and called Pradeep, asking him to share his location on the mobile phone. The team finally traced and rescued Pradeep around 5.30 am.

NCB sleuths taking Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan for questioning after getting his one-day custody in a drug seizure case in Mumbai on Sunday | PTI

SRK's son in NCB's custody

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

THE Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Sunday got one-day custody of Aryan Khan, the son of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan, in connection with the seizure of drugs onboard a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast. The narcotics sleuths had detained Aryan Khan, Munmun Dhamecha, Arbaaz Merchant and five others on Saturday evening after swooping down on the Goa-bound cruise from Mumbai based on a tip-off. All the eight were arrested on Sunday evening.

Seeking Aryan, Munmun and Arbaaz's custody, the NCB told a holiday court of the chief metropolitan magistrate that it had evidence to show an existence of a nexus between the three persons and drugs peddlers.

"Prima facie, there is incriminating material in the form of WhatsApp chats and so on that clearly shows the nexus," the agency said in its remand note.

When the NCB prosecutor sought police custody for two days, Aryan's lawyer said his client was ready for a one-day custody. "Because I am (Aryan) neither found in possession nor is there an allegation of consumption none of the sections attracts the embargo under sec 37 of the NDPS," Aryan's lawyer Satish Maneshinde said.

The seizure brings the focus back on the relationship between Bollywood and the D-Company, which has a monopoly on drugs supply in the tinsel town.

"Raw drugs are procured from Afghanistan and Colombia and smuggled into the country through Punjab and Gujarat. The D-Company runs the network and has both Bollywood stars and strugglers as its clientele," a senior police official said.

FULL REPORT: P10

PAVAGADA PERILS

Unkept promises... Ex-Naxals threaten to return to cause

CHETANA BELAGERE & ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Pavagada

SOLAR PARK FLARES
PART – 3

PAVAGADA taluk, which once hit the headlines for Naxal activities, has been in the news again over the last five years for housing one of the world's largest solar park covering an area of 53 sqkm. But nothing has changed for former Naxalites in the area, who had been promised by politicians, policemen and the government that their living condition would be improved, employment opportunities would be created, financial help would be extended and all efforts would be made to ensure a 'good' life.

But just when these ex-Naxalites were returning to the mainstream, the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (KPTCL) decided to acquire land for the humongous solar park at Pavagada.

"We were promised jobs, including cleaning solar panels, cutting grass and others, during setting up of the park. But nothing came our way. We belong to the Scheduled Caste community, and on top of that, we were labelled Naxalites," lamented Muthyalappa alias Venkatesh of Vallur village. He was part of the Naxal movement since 1998. He was arrested in 2005 and served six-and-a-half years in different jails in the State.

Ex-Naxalite Muthyalappa alias Venkatesh with other residents of Vallur village in Pavagada taluk of Tumakuru district | ASHWINI M SRIPAD

Nagaraj, alias Manohara — whose brother Peddanna was the first in the family to join the Naxal movement — decided not to part with his father's two-acre land, while many others dreamed of working at the solar park as employees.

Nagaraj sits at his small shop in the tiny hamlet of Venkatamannahalli, which made headlines in 2005, when six police personnel and a civilian were killed, while five others were injured when around 300 Naxalites, including 50 women, attacked the Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP) camp with hand grenades, bombs and AK-47 assault rifles. Nagaraj was the prime accused in the case.

"I have been Accused No 1 in the bomb blast case," says Nagaraj.

CONTINUED ON: P7

EXPRESS READ

BJP shortlists probable candidates for bypolls

Bengaluru: The BJP state core committee on Sunday shortlisted three probable candidates each for Hanagal and Sindagi Assembly constituencies which will go for bypolls. P4

NATIONWIDE	OCT 2	OCT 3
Fresh cases	24,354	22,842
Recoveries	25,455	25,930
Deaths	234	244

KARNATAKA	OCT 2	OCT 3
Fresh cases	636	664
Recoveries	745	711
Deaths	4	8